The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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ROOSEVELT "JOBBED" BY ANCIENT METHOD

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—To save District Attorney Fickert from a recall because of his connection with the Oxman perjury and other features of the Mooney trial, Theodore Roosevelt was "jobbed," to use police language. The ex-president wired Fickert:

"I am informed that an effort is being made to recall you because you have successfully prosecuted the anarchists who, during the preparedness day parade, killed 10 persons and wounded 60 others. If such be the fact I not only feel that the issue between you and your opponents is that between patriotism and anarchy, but I also feel that all those who directly or indirectly assail you for any such reason should be promptly deprived of citizenship."

As Fickert's opponents include well-known citizens, some of them object to be placed on the colonel's "undesirable" list. They demanded explanations. It was then discovered that a friend of Fickert turned the trick through Alexander Moore, publisher of the Pittsburg Leader, who was asked to interest Roosevelt on behalf of Fickert, who was "stamping out sedition."

Charles A. Swigert, Fickert's recall opponent, wired the accommodating Pittsburg man:

"You have been grossly deceived. Fickert has heretofore made no pretense of stamping out I. W. W. propaganda and has prosecuted no one even remotely accused of radicalism except bomb defendants. Preparedness day crime occurred July 22, 1916, nine months before war was declared, and no problems of sedition had then arisen. When the Oxman expose came Fickert invented that issue to protect himself and is now desecrating the American flag by using it as a cloak to cover up official misdeeds."

STUDY CO-OPERATION.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—"Every member of our association should make a study of the co-operative movement," is the editorial advice of the Union Leader, official paper of Chicago's organized street car men.

"We are all familiar with the value of organization along industrial lines, but we have never applied organization to our purchasing power. If organization is necessary to insure proper wages and conditions of labor, it should be apparent to all that it is equally necessary to secure full value for the money we spend.

"The times we are passing through are thought-producers. Theories are vanishing and cold facts coming to the front.

"The general establishment of the Rochdale system of co-operation in this country received a strong impetus when the A. F. of L. convention adopted the report of a special committee on co-operation, appointed at the Baltimore convention in 1916, to investigate the subject and make recommendations. The committee's recommendations provided for a practical plan of promoting the institution of co-operative societies throughout the country on the Rochdale plan.

"It may be news to many to know that there are now over 60 co-operative stores in Illinois, nearly all of which are operating on the Rochdale basis. All of these have been successful."

FIREMEN ARE IMPORTANT.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The war is placing new values on the worker.

In a bulletin on coal conservation, issued by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, this reference is made to the sooty, grimy fireman:

"A fireman at a hand-fired boiler shovels three to ten tons of coal a day—or as great a value in material as many skilled men in other departments.

"Cheap coal and cheap labor sometimes made it apparently economical in dollars and cents to install and run an inefficient plant.

"Coal has now become expensive. It is hard to obtain. Efficiency in its use and avoidance of waste have become of first importance, since without power other materials cannot be utilized.

STRIKE COST $5,000,000.

New York, Dec. 8.—Street car companies in this city broke last summer's strike of the Street Car Men's union but it cost them $5,000,000, according to a report issued by the public service commission. This only includes a loss of 100,000,000 passengers during August and September and makes no mention of strikebreakers, guards and private detectives who punched another big hole in the companies' bank rolls.

The strike, according to the commission, has educated many people to travel in the subways, and this income is a regular loss to the union-smashing surface lines.

WILL ARBITRATE.

Boston, Dec. 8.—Striking electrical workers employed by the Western Electric company have accepted the arbitration offer of Henry B. Endicott, general manager of the Massachusetts committee on public safety. The strike has been on for several weeks and could be avoided, reported the committee on public safety, if the company received a committee of its employes or expressed a willingness to adjust shop grievances.

ONE GUN MAN JAILED.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 8.—Wiley Haney, strikebreaker and self-advertised "bad man" from the west, who shot up the town during last summer's textile strike, will forego terrorizing women and children for a spell. He has been sentenced from one to five years for attempt to commit voluntary manslaughter and to six months and a $100 fine for assault.

82 PER CENT DIVIDENDS.

New York, Dec. 8.—Stockholders of the international mercantile marine corporation are disappointed because 82 per cent dividends have not been distributed but have been set aside for other purposes. These dividends indicate the vast profits in the shipping industry because of the war.

RAISE WAGES, AND DUES.

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—Although contractors have indorsed the new wage scale of $6 a day, members of Carpenters' union No. 483 are taking no chances on weakening their organization, and have raised their monthly dues from $1 to $1.25.

WANT BETTER LAWS.

Boston, Dec. 8.—Representatives of Street Car Men's unions in this state have organized to secure remedial legislation for workers in this calling.

FEDERAL LAW TO CHECK BISBEE DEPORTATIONS

Washington, Dec. 8.—Congressman Hayden of Arizona has introduced a bill "to prohibit and punish the interstate deportation of laborers and other persons."

There is no federal law covering the deportation of workers from one state to another.

Congressman Hayden's plan provides that another Bisbee occurrence shall be punished by fine and imprisonment of not more than $2,000 and two years in jail if the offender is a natural person, and if the offender is a corporation it shall be fined not less than $10,000 and the directors shall be liable as individuals.

The term "deportation" is defined as "the accomplishment of involuntary removal, without due process of law and either with or without the application of physical violence, of any person or persons from one state to another state, or from a state to a territory, or from one territory to another, or from either a state or territory to the District of Columbia, or the reverse of any of these."

"Sec. 2. That it shall be unlawful and a violation of this act for any person, company, partnership or corporation, either acting alone or by collusion or conspiracy, or in concert with another or others, to deport, or cause or accomplish the deportation of another person or persons, whether such deportation is accomplished or sought to be affected by means of threats, menaces, demonstrations of hostility, or putting in fear of the person or persons sought to be or actually deported, or by means of physical violence directed against or applied to such person or persons."

HIGHER WAGES NECESSARY.

Cleveland, Dec. 8.—The demand for higher wages by train service employes is defended by the Railroad Trainman, official magazine of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, which says:

"Our men are making better than that allowed for the normal day, but to make it they work more hours than fixed for a normal day's work. The overtime stretches their pay and lets them live in an indifferent fashion.

"The wage for the normal day in freight service varies slightly in different parts of the country. In the territory that covers the greatest number of men, the going rate for through freight service is $2.67 a day. In the west and south the rate is slightly higher. Passenger men receive from $62 monthly upward. Without going into the wage question in detail, there is to be said in general that the normal wage and overtime fall far below the war cost of living. We have to adopt the only course open to us, which is to ask for wages enough to allow us 'to have our supper.'"

CAN'T ORGANIZE FIREMEN.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 8.—It is unfortunate that we are not living in the time when workers were branded with hot irons if they protested against working conditions, as this plan could be used on municipal firemen who are discussing organization.

But modern methods must be applied by Mayor Smith, however, and he has announced that these firemen will be dismissed.

To add to the firemen's terror, Peter Campbell, a hydrantman, has had charges of insubordination preferred against him by Patrick Carroll, acting chief of the fire department. This gold-braided individual says Campbell, who is secretary of the Kentucky state federation of labor, "organized a union among the members of the fire department without my permission."

HARNESS MINE GASES.

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 8.—At a meeting of business men from the anthracite region of this state Governor Brumbaugh urged that the gases in coal mines be utilized in the interest of conservation. "If we can harness this power," he said, "we can change the complexion of your industrial life."

The governor said that 72,000,000 cubic feet of gas, or 148,000,000 horsepower, is lost every 24 hours in the anthracite field, and that control of this power would not only bring more industries, but lessen accidents. This idea, said the governor, was given to him, by William S. Thompkins of Wilkes-Barre.

ARIZONA SHERIFF QUITS.

Bisbee, Ariz., Dec. 8.—Harry C. Wheeler, sheriff of this county, who engineered the deportation of 1,200 workers last July, has resigned as chairman of the county draft board. In his letter to Gov. Campbell he says he "is not able to properly attend to the duties of the two offices."

Wheeler will now have more time to digest the report of the president's commission, which declared that the Bisbee deportations were illegal and without warrant in state or federal law.

EDITOR SPEAKS WELL.

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—The San Francisco Bulletin cites the Bisbee deportations to show the folly of attempting to settle industrial disputes by force rather than by mediation.

"The people at Bisbee tried to settle their dispute by shutting their eyes and using their guns," says this editor.

"It is time that some wiser and more public-spirited forces be made to prevail in such places as Bisbee."

DON'T SPEND ENOUGH.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 8.—A committee appointed by city officials to investigate housing conditions reports that "Wilmington collects less money and spends less money for the support of the city than does any other city in its class we could find in the United States census report."

Wilmington is the home of large powder interests, and shipping and iron concerns.

MEAT CUTTERS STRIKE.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 8.—Nearly 200 organized meat cutters employed by the Carstens Packing company have suspended work to enforce wage increases.

President Carstens can't understand why his employes struck. He says they "seemed" contented, but were intimidated by an outside agitator.

DEFEAT SPEEDING UP.

Cincinnati, Dec. 8.—Assurance that speeding up systems will not be installed is a feature of an agreement between the Boiler Makers' union and the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad. No enforcement of compulsory insurance and higher wages are also included.

MILLIONAIRES INCREASE.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The annual report of the commissioner of internal revenue shows that in the last income taxing year, 1916, the number of American millionaires increased 7,925 over the previous year.

The income tax returns for the year ending with December, 1915, showed a grand total of 14,771 millionaires. The returns for the year 1916, just published, show that there are 22,696 American millionaires.

These figures are not the result of a census, but are the returns that have yielded the government a very large revenue during the last year, and they may, therefore, be accepted as authentic. It is possible that they are rather under than over the actual number.

The class of multimillionaires is not so easily estimated. There are 10 persons in the country who have an annual income of over $5,000,000 each. Reckoned on the 4 per cent rate of income, they are worth $125,000,000 each. There are nine persons who were taxed last year for an income of $4,000,000 to $5,000,000. These may be regarded as having fortunes of about $100,000,000 each. There are 14 who have reported having an income of from $3,000,000 to $4,000,000 and 24 who enjoyed incomes ranging from $2,000,000 to $3,000,000.

SAVING HUMAN CAPITAL.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The struggle of nine of the warring countries to strengthen their human resources by making labor conditions tolerable for children who must work, and providing vocational schools for them, is told in a pamphlet issued by the children's bureau, federal department of labor.

In Italy, as well as in France, England and Russia labor protection standards were relaxed at the beginning of the war only to be restored and strengthened as experience showed that long hours, night and Sunday work, with the evil effects on health and efficiency, did not pay.

Canada, New Zealand and Australia have maintained their standards practically unchanged through the war period. A bill introduced in the British parliament fixes the compulsory school attendance at 14 without the present exemptions and requires that all working children under 18 spend at least 320 hours a year in continuation schools.

MORE PRICE SETTING.

Washington, Dec. 8.—If congress acts on the suggestion of President Wilson, in his message to the national lawmakers this week, America's plunderbund will pass through dark days.

The chief executive said:

"Recent experience has convinced me that the congress must go farther in authorizing the government to set limits to prices. The law of supply and demand, I am sorry to say, has been replaced by the law of unrestrained selfishness. While we have eliminated profiteering in several branches of industry it still runs impudently rampant in others. The farmers, for example, complain with a great deal of justice that, while the regulation of food prices restricts their incomes, no restraints are placed upon the prices of most of the things they must themselves purchase; and similar inequalities obtain on all sides."

INFECTION A LABOR LOSS.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 8.—Care in preventing infections would make a big decrease in the time and money loss due to industrial accidents, says the state department of labor and industries. It is shown that out of nearly 6,000 cases reported during the last fiscal year, 15 per cent were caused by infection. The cost was $66,000 and the estimated time lost was 86,626 working days.

The department makes no estimate of its own as to how many of the infections could have been prevented, but quotes previous estimates that at least 90 per cent can be avoided. It urges a safety kit for every industrial establishment and the cultivation of the habit among employes of reporting accidents so that even the slightest injury may be treated.

OBJECT TO GUN MEN.

Oregon City, Ore., Dec. 8.—Striking paper mill workers have protested to Governor Withycombe against his appointment of gun men as special police. The strikers say:

"There has been no violation of law. We requested that our difficulties be submitted to your board of conciliation, we to abide by its decision. This was refused by companies. The mayor denies having requested appointment of special officers. Citizens feel it a disgrace to city and peace officers to have non-residents appointed to keep peace when there is no disturbance. Who requested appointment?"

WHY MINERS DON'T WORK.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 8.—The West Virginia Federationist, published in this city, says:

"The increase of wages granted the miners is doing but little good in many parts of the district where owing to car shortage they are only working about half time. There is considerable howl if a man loses a day's work, but how about the patriotic railroads who are deliberately obstructing the coal output."

GIRLS ARE LOYAL.

Fort Smith, Ark., Dec. 8.—At a mass meeting addressed by trade unionists and business men, striking telephone girls notified the Southwestern Bell Telephone company that they will not return to work until the two operators discharged last September are reinstated. For good measure these loyal girls demand the reinstatement of strikers at five near-by localities.

UPHOLD ANTI-PICKETING.

Austin, Tex., Dec. 8.—The court of criminal appeals has upheld the El Paso anti-picketing ordinance. The Texas state federation of labor, at its last convention, promised to assist in court contests against this municipal legislation, and the decision will be appealed on the ground that the Texas statutes legalize "peaceful picketing."

SECURE UNION SHOP.

Rock Island, Ill., Dec. 8.—Organized wiremen, members of Electrical Workers' unions Nos. 485 and 635, have secured their first union shop agreement, which provides for $5 for eight hours. These unions have jurisdiction over Rock Island and Moline, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa.

WANT LESS HOURS.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 8.—Retail merchants in this city favor earlier closing and have organized with this object in view.

WANTS U. S. OWNERSHIP BANKERS NOW CONTROL

New York, Dec. 8.—Charles S. Mellen, former president of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, favors government ownership of railroads, according to an interview printed in the New York American.

The ex-railroad official was connected with the New Haven properties several years ago, when it was looted so thoroughly that even frenzied finance was scandalized. For this reason his story of railroad control is interesting. He refers to railroad directors as "directors who do not direct," and says employes and managers work for "a coterie of bankers."

"I often ask myself," he said, "why is it that when a man becomes rich in the grocery or banking business nothing else will do but he must become a director in a railroad.

"Get a list of the railroad directors of America. See how many of them have their friends and their sons, and their friends' sons, or other relatives, in good positions on the railroads. Many of them have been railroad directors for no other purpose.

"It is going to take something like the strong arm of the government to deal with the army of railroad employes. Under government ownership there will be no more strikes than there are in the army, navy or post office."

The interview closed with this statement, which indicates that the labor question is not the real issue:

"The railroads have lost the confidence of the public. I believe they are headed toward government ownership. Nor will it be long, in my opinion, before investors are convinced of this fact and will be among those insistent that the government take the roads."

NATIONAL BANKS PROSPER.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Earnings of national banks for the fiscal year were $667,406,000, the greatest in their history, and $76,764,000, or 13 per cent, more than for the previous year, according to compilations made public by Controller of the Currency Williams. Net earnings were $194,321,000, an increase over the preceding year of $36,778,000, or 23 per cent.

On their capital stock the banks report net earnings of 17.96 per cent., the highest percentage ever reported. This compares with 14.78 per cent. on stock the year before.

The amount distributed in dividends to stockholders was $125,538,000, or 11.61 per cent. on their capital stock, compared with 10.76 per cent. the year preceding.

The percentage of net earnings to capital and surplus for the past year was 10.52 per cent., the greatest shown since 1873.

DO WE EAT TOO MUCH SUGAR?

Washington, Dec. 8.—Surgeon General Blue of the United States public health service believes that the sugar shortage is a blessing in disguise, according to a local newspaper, which quotes this medical man:

"Some people seem to be under the impression that they are depriving themselves of a strength-giving food when they are asked to cut down their consumption of sugar or candy. That is incorrect. All starchy matter eaten is converted into sugar before it is absorbed by the system."

"Dr. C. E. A. Winslow, curator of the department of public health of the American museum of national history of New York, sized up the situation correctly when he said that the sugar shortage is a blessing in disguise, and that Americans eat too much sweets."

WISE ANTI-UNIONIST.

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—Coopers' union No. 65 has established a new wage scale which increases rates 50 cents a day. The first employer to sign this union shop agreement was the California Barrel company, of which Frederick J. Koster is one of the chief executives. This gentleman is president of the chamber of commerce, and as a member of that organization's "law and order" committee has been waging a fight on trade unionism, which he labels "the open shop."

But Mr. Koster is wise when confronted by a 100 per cent trade union organization.

TRIES TO EVADE PLEDGE.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 8.—The Atlantic Coast Line and the Charleston and Western Carolina railways are attempting to victimize striking railway clerks. The clerks won their strike and on return to work were told, in many cases, that they would have to return as individuals.

"It would seem," says the Labor Review, "that the crafty railway officials, while eager to have the men return to work, are endeavoring to block the enforcement of the agreements with the government's representatives."

FURRIERS LOCKED OUT.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 8.—A. Hollander & Son, furriers, have locked out 250 members of Fur Workers' unions Nos. 54 and 55. The workers attempted to negotiate a contract on the union shop basis.

Two years ago this concern fought the fur workers for three months, but was compelled to agree that union men would be given preference.

CO-OPS. PAY DIVIDENDS.

Virden, Ill., Dec. 8.—The Virden Co-operative society has paid a quarterly dividend of 5 per cent to its members. Total resources of these co-ops. is over $12,000. They have added a meat department in which two men are continually employed.

8 HOURS FOR POLICEMEN.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 8.—Policemen in this city have won their long fight for the eight-hour day. City officials announce that the new system will be put into effect the first of the year.

WANT EIGHT HOURS.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 8.—The International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers has indorsed plans of its affiliates in this province to secure the eight-hour day.

BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Muskogee, Okla., Dec. 8.—The Boiler Makers' union has signed an agreement with the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf railroad.

FIVE UNIONS UNITE.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 8.—The five Plasterers' unions in this city and Minneapolis have amalgamated.

AUSTRALIAN WORKERS PROVE 'GO SLOW' LIBEL

Adelaide, South Australia, Dec. 8.—The trades and labor council protests against employers' claim that Australian workers have adopted a "go slow" policy and that war production is hampered.

In refuting this libel, the Daily Herald quotes government statistics to prove that production and profits have increased since the war started, while the number of workers have decreased because of army enlistments.

"It may be worth while here," says this paper, "to give a few quotations from Bulletin No. 66, issued in June, 1917, by the commonwealth statistician, in repudiating these wild and unreliable assertions, so that they may be used by the workers when occasion arises to defend themselves against unjust aspersions:

"In 1914 there were 15,536 manufacturing establishments in Australia, and in the same year 337,101 hands were employed. The value added to the raw materials was £65,163,286, and the value of the output was £161,560,763. Then war broke out, and thousands of men were recruited for foreign service. In 1914 the number of establishments fell off.

"However, the larger firms benefited, and with 15,427 factories and 331,579 workers (a reduction of 109 establishments and 5,622 workers) they managed to squeeze out £66,627,039 in value added to the raw materials, an increase of £473,753; and their total products amounted to £166,405,923, showing an increase of £5,845,160. The European war continued through 1914 to 1915, and the number of factories at the close of 1915 were only 15,092, a drop of 335 that year; the number of workers shrank by 10,508, to 321,071; but the value added to the raw materials by the workers, who had lost 10,508 of their number, was only less by £317,421, and the total value of the output had increased to £169,086,700 by £2,671,777, showing that for a smaller amount of actual value the profiteers scooped three million pounds odd in extra prices.

"These figures demonstrate beyond dispute that the 'go slow' libel against the workers has absolutely no foundation in fact."

COURT CAN'T BREAK STRIKE.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 8.—Striking street car men refuse to desert their cause despite injunction judges and company offers to give the strikers "preferred runs." Two of the strikers have been jailed for six months for violating an injunction and two other unionists have been fined $10 and costs. Damage suits aggregating $300,000 have been filed by citizens who have been injured through the incompetency of strikebreakers. The company's lighting department is suffering heavily because of a boycott and the municipal electric light plant is enjoying proportionate prosperity.

Several weeks ago the authorities scattered a parade of unionists, on their way to a mass meeting called in the interest of these car men. A general strike, involving over 10,000 workers, was called and the authorities then guaranteed that constitutional rights would be respected.

CREDIT GOES TO THE FEW.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 8.—In urging organized labor to support its candidates for school directors, the committee appointed by the central labor union took a rap at history as it is taught in the Tacoma public schools. The committee reported:

"Histories of today call particular attention to the achievement of generals, admirals, presidents, congressmen and those high in authority and do not give the laborer credit for his help in performing the deeds that are recorded. The changes in public affairs through invention and industrial changes are not taught to the youth of the land but the whole system seems to be the teaching and bringing the children to believe that the so-called better class only achieve distinction."

UNION SHIP IS FIRST.

Seattle, Dec. 8.—The first vessel for the United States emergency fleet corporation has been launched at the Skinner & Eddy yards. This contract was the eighty-third let, but is the first to be fulfilled. The Skinner & Eddy plant is strictly union, and its management has repeatedly announced that it would employ no other kind of labor.

Because the anti-union chamber of commerce ignored the launching of this vessel, the Central Labor Council appointed a committee to represent Seattle workers when the ship took her first dip.

$17,500 FOR LOSS OF ARM.

New York, Dec. 8.—A jury in Justice Pendleton's part of the supreme court has awarded a 17-year-old boy $17,500 for the loss of an arm. The boy was leaning against a gate and it collapsed, causing a compound fracture of his right arm, which had to be amputated, when complications set in.

The verdict is said to be the second largest in this state for the loss of an arm.

CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Aberdeen, Wash., Dec. 8.—Street Car Men's union No. 762 has adjusted wage differences with the Grays Harbor Railway and Light company after long negotiations. Maximum rates are increased from 30 to 37 cents an hour and working conditions are improved. This union was formed last summer and boasts a 100 per cent membership.

KANSAS POLL TAX VOID.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 8.—The state supreme court rules that the Kansas poll tax law is unconstitutional because it exempts cities of over 80,000 population. The principle involved in the act was not included, but poll tax legislation has been dealt an effective blow, notwithstanding.

PAPER RULERS ADVANCE.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—Paper rulers affiliated with the Brotherhood of Bookbinders have secured a two-year agreement which guarantees a minimum rate of $26.50 a week and a graduated scale for apprentices.

CIGAR MAKERS STRIKE.

Boston, Dec. 8.—To enforce a 10 per cent wage increase 2,500 members of Cigar Makers' union No. 27 suspended work in seven large shops controlled by the Cigar Manufacturers' association.

PROFITS IN EXPLOSIVES.

New York, Dec. 8.—The Aetna Explosives company, inc., reports a net profit of $3,725,461 for the 10 months ending October 31 last.

NO LABOR SHORTAGE.

Denver, Dec. 8.—Agitation to employ convicts on railroad building in this state is opposed by State Labor Commissioner Morrisey in a letter to the governor.

"Our state free employment bureaus are not overrun with working men who are out of employment," writes Morrisey.

"The labor department of Colorado does not believe convicts should be taken out of prisons and given work in the face of a labor situation which is not generally known to exist, but which our investigations prove to be true. For example, 100 job seekers were turned away from the Denver stock yards in one day. At one of our Denver employment offices 73 men applied for work between 8:30 and 12 o'clock on November 13, the day the test check was made. Of these 50 were married. Few of them were 'floaters.'

"There are probably a thousand more laborers out of employment in Denver than there were a month ago. This is due to the fact that most of the work in the harvest fields is at an end; the construction road camps for the most part have closed for the season; there is no work in the beet fields; the summer resorts have long since closed.

"The state labor department does not concede to any one a more enthusiastic support of this country in the world's war, but it cannot help but believe that certain employers of labor are taking advantage of the patriotic sentiment to impress women into industrial service where there is no need of doing so, thereby depriving heads of families of a means of livelihood. These women are being employed in machine shops at a scale of wages below that which has been paid men."

PREDICT IMMIGRATION RUSH.

Boston, Dec. 8.—A tremendous rush of immigrants after the war was the prediction of Frederic C. Howe, commissioner of immigration at the port of New York, in an address in this city.

"The amount of immigration after the war," he said, "will of course depend on economic conditions in Europe. If we have high wages here and good living conditions then there will be a rush of immigration. Many things in Europe will contribute to immigration. Taxes will be high, whole provinces have been devastated and the minds of millions of men have been made restless. I believe that thousands will come.

"On the other hand, many will want to go back to their old homes to search for relatives whom they have not heard from since the beginning of the war. They will have money and they will want to buy homes. They cannot buy them here."

The speaker said the land question is a pressing problem in America.

OIL STRIKE IS SETTLED.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Announcement is made that the president's mediation commission has settled the southern California oil strike, which involved about 10,000 workers. The eight-hour day is provided. There shall be no discrimination and a minimum wage of $4 a day, to be effective as of December 1, is established.

This commission has succeeded in not only settling this strike, but several others. The Bisbee deportation on July 12 was declared illegal and without warrant in state or federal law.

On this commission is John H. Walker, president of the Illinois state federation of labor, and E. P. Marsh, president of the Washington state federation of labor. Secretary of Labor Wilson is chairman.

WAR "CHARITY" DEFINED.

New York, Dec. 8.—Theatrical managers oppose the increasing number of war "charities," which are defined thusly by Marc Klaw of the Klaw & Erlanger syndicate:

"Entertainments at the theaters for the supposed benefit of charity have become a nuisance. The returns are nowhere nearly adequate in proportion to the amount of money and time put into them. For the most part they are gotten up by professional solicitors and schemers, who make fat salaries or commissions out of them. Putting money into benefits is like dropping it down a ladder and letting charity take what sticks to the rungs."

ORGANIZING WOMEN.

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—The Janitors' union has started an organizing campaign among women who are being installed in this calling by employers who claim men janitors can not be secured.

Officers of the union claim that there are plenty of men available, and that the reason women are employed is that they are paid 50 per cent less than the men. When the women are organized the union will insist that they be paid the same wages as is paid men.

WANT CHINESE LABOR.

Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 8.—In convention assembled, fruit growers of this state have declared in favor of the importation of Chinese "and other labor."

By this action the fruit growers ignore the findings of every investigator on this subject, who has denied that there is a shortage of labor.

But Chinese "and other" imported labor work cheap.

WANT MODERN TENEMENTS.

New York, Dec. 8.—Trade unionists in this city ask municipal authorities to build modern tenements on land purchased at a cost of $12,000,000 for a court house. The site is now declared unsuitable. The investment is costing New York city $2,000 a day interest charges.

WAS THIS TRUST BUSTED?

New York, Dec. 8.—Cash disbursements by the Standard oil group of companies for the last quarter of 1917 aggregate $27,403,249, which is the largest profit since the United States supreme court "busted" this trust several years ago.

METAL WORKERS WIN.

New Orleans, Dec. 8.—Sheet Metal Workers' union No. 196 has won its strike for wage increases, and these employes are better equipped to combat the H. C. of L.

MOLDERS WIN STRIKE.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 8. — Iron molders employed at the Tacoma foundry have secured wage increases and union recognition after a short strike.

COAST PHONE STRIKE ENDS BY MEDIATION

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—A coast-wide strike of electrical workers and telephone girls has been settled by President Wilson's mediation and investigating commission.

The agreement drafted by the commission for Oregon, Nevada, Washington, Idaho and California, and accepted by the workers, includes:

Recognition of the telephone girls' unions.

Wage increases for girls earning less than $50 a month from $7.60 a week to $9 in large centers; from $7.60 to $8, $3.50 and $8.60 in smaller cities; girls earning more than $50 a month, minimum weekly increase of 50 cents.

Wage increase for men of 12 1-2 per cent, or from $4 to $4.50 for journeymen, and from $2.50 to $2.80 a day for apprentices.

Negotiations for further increase and, on failure to agree, arbitration that will be final.

Machinery for disposing of all grievances by mutual adjustment or by United States government arbitrators in each district, by federal immigration commissioners or inspectors, as available.

The president's commission is made a party to the agreement.

The appointment of John F. Williams, retired coal operator of Chicago, as arbitrator in any future labor controversies affecting electrical workers and operators on the Pacific coast has been announced by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

HEALTH MOST IMPORTANT.

Manchester, England, Dec. 8.—In urging the creation of a ministry of health, the Cotton Factory Times says:

"An improvement in public health means also the improvement in public spirit and morals. Where disease is, crime also lurks. Depression leads to degeneration. A populace that lives grimly is apt to think grimly, also. We want the atmosphere cleared of smoke, the fields and gardens given a chance of brightness, and the sunlight afforded free play. It may be said that sweeping reforms such as these advocated mean a big expense. That is true, but the expense is not so great as that involved in the construction of hospitals and prisons, in tending the sick, in fighting epidemics, in providing endless remedies for the ever multiplying evils in the social and physical state. Let us adopt the bold course of prevention and face the cost, instead of clinging to the timid policy of skinning and filming the ulcerous sore and paying more dearly in the end. Parsimony in improving the conditions of physical life is bad business for the community. War or no war, we cannot afford, even from an economic point of view, to say nothing of the human side, to delay the establishment of the much over-due ministry of health."

LAWYERS' WAGE IS IMMUNE.

Washington, Dec. 8.—It's all right for law makers to set wages of ordinary working folks, but when it comes to interfering with lawyers this is unconstitutional.

A recent act of congress provided that in claims against the government a lawyer could not charge more than 20 per cent of the amount collected for fees. Now the district court of appeals of the District of Columbia upholds a lower court that this act is illegal.

It impairs the sacred right of contract, says the court.

The intent of congress was to protect clients against unscrupulous lawyers—if any such exist.

BEEF SUPPLIES PILE UP.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—Stocks of beef are piling up in packing house refrigerators and there is an adequate supply of beef and mutton to meet all domestic demands, said Arthur Meeker of Armour and company in an address to the State Live Stock association, whose delegates favor the abolition of wheatless and meatless days.

Contrary to general belief, it was said, exports of beef have not increased greatly during the war. A decrease in the use of pork and its products, however, was urged.

PACKERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Pueblo, Col., Dec. 8.—The Nuckols Packing company has reached an agreement with striking employes and reinstated two workers whose discharge was the cause of the strike.

When the strike was on newspapers announced that 200,000 pounds of fresh meat was spoiled because the workers deserted the refrigeration department. It is now shown that the union ordered enough men to remain at work to keep the refrigeration plant in operation.

UNION INACTIVITY COSTLY.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 8.—Machinists employed in Tacoma garages are paying a costly price for union inactivity. A short time ago they discussed organization, but employers checked this movement by granting the eight-hour day. The machinists were elated over their gain and dropped union agitation. They said a union wasn't necessary.

Now the employers have established the 10-hour day.

RECOGNIZE A. F. OF L.

Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 8.—At a meeting of the Tile, Mantel and Grate association, eastern district, these employers recognized the supremacy of the A. F. of L. by voting to urge an independent union of tile setters to ally itself with the bona fide trade union movement for the purpose of avoiding jurisdiction conflicts.

YEAST WORKERS GAIN.

Sumner, Wash., Dec. 8.—Organized yeast workers employed by the Fleischman Yeast company, have secured an eight-hour agreement and wage increases that average $2 a week. Girls who now receive $10.50 a week will be paid $14 after six months.

MACHINISTS LOCKED OUT.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 8.—The Otto Eick Machine company has locked out its union machinists because they demanded that shop conditions be improved.

BUTCHERS WANT MORE.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 8.—The Butchers' union has presented a new wage scale to employers. Higher rates are asked.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 8.—Employing brewers have raised wages $1 and $2 a week.

WEINBERG ACQUITTED IN JUST 25 MINUTES

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—Israel Weinberg, one of the five defendants in the so-called preparedness day bomb case, was discharged by a jury after 25 minutes' deliberation. It is a record decision in big criminal trials in this city.

The verdict rips wide open the net woven around Thomas J. Mooney, Mrs. Mooney, Warren K. Billings, Edward D. Nolan and Weinberg.

The latter is a jitney driver and was charged with conveying Mooney, Mrs. Mooney and Billings to the scene of the explosion a short time before the bomb was set off. Weinberg not only proved a complete alibi but police officials swore that they had orders to keep automobiles off Market street, the scene of the explosion, and that there were no automobiles within four blocks of where the explosion occurred, except official cars.

Two women, Sadie and Mollie Edeau, were the principal witnesses for the prosecution. The defense brought out these facts:

The women did not testify before the grand jury, nor are their names on the indictment charging the defendant with murder. Weinberg was in jail 45 days before the women entered the case by visiting the jail and identifying the jitney driver. They had previously visited the district attorney's office and discussed the matter with that official.

Warren K. Billings was convicted largely on the testimony of John McDonald, who swore at that trial that he saw Billings place the bomb. At the Weinberg trial McDonald injured the prosecution by being forced to acknowledge that he did not see either Mooney or Billings get in or out of any automobile at the scene of the explosion.

Frank Oxman, whose perjured testimony convicted Mooney, was not called as a witness by District Attorney Fickert in the Weinberg case. Neither was Oxman called against Mrs. Mooney, who was also acquitted at her first trial.

The score now stands: Two convictions, Mooney and Billings; two acquittals, Mrs. Mooney and Weinberg; a discredited district attorney, who is facing a recall election and an aroused public sentiment developed by the organized workers and other justice-loving citizens.

Edward D. Nolan, the fifth defendant, has not been brought to trial.

WHY ROADS ARE CLOGGED.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The railroads' war board publishes this information on troops transported since the war, and excludes reference to munitions, foodstuffs, etc.:

"Troop movement figures to date indicate that the railroads of this country have safely transported approximately 1,500,000 soldiers to training camps and embarkation points since August 1. Five hundred thousand of these men have made journeys necessitating overnight travel and have been moved in tourist or standard sleepers furnished by the Pullman company.

"On one of the long hauls, 8,000 men were moved from a training camp on the western coast to a point on the eastern coast—a distance of 3,700 miles—in a little less than a week. The men traveled in sections, each section comprising 12 tourist and two baggage cars."

STATE FIXES WOMEN WAGE.

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—The state industrial welfare commission has ordered that no experienced woman or minor employed in a California laundry or dry cleaning establishment shall be paid less than $10 a week. Hours of labor are limited to eight a day and 48 a week.

"Experienced" is defined as a person who has worked in the industries 12 or more months.

Learners must be paid not less than $8 a week for the first six months, $9 a week for the second and $9.50 for the ensuing three months.

All learners must be registered with the commission not later than two weeks after starting to work.

GAINS BY POLISHERS.

Cincinnati, Dec. 8.—Officers of the Metal Polishers' International union report the following recent gains:

St. Louis, Mo.—Wages increased from 40 to 50 cents an hour; work week reduced from 54 to 49 1-2 hours.

Rochester, N. Y.—Van Bergh Silver company raised wages 2 1-2 cents an hour.

New Bedford, Mass.—Pairpont corporation signed agreement for 10 per cent wage increase, time and one-half for overtime, double time for holidays, recognition of shop committee and a 54-hour week.

Springfield, Mass.—Moore Drop Forging company raised wages 10 cents an hour.

PAYS MILLION IN RENT.

Washington, Dec. 8.—In the estimates for appropriations submitted to congress by various departments it is shown that Uncle Sam, because of war conditions, is paying $1,059,593.66 in rentals. Since the war started many buildings have been leased to accommodate the government. The war department leads with a total rentals of $249,860. The food and fuel administrations are listed at $83,320.

MILL CO. REDUCES HOURS.

Marshfield, Ore., Dec. 8. — Trade union agitation for shorter hours has affected the Smith Lumber and Manufacturing company which has reduced the work day of 800 employes to nine hours. The company is hopeful that these employes will forever after be "contented."

UNION SHOP FOR MINERS.

Jellico, Tenn., Dec. 8.—The large coal operating company representing the Woolridge interests in eastern Tennessee has signed a union shop agreement with the United Mine Workers, the first in 10 years.

TEAMSTERS ORGANIZE.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 8.—Nearly 200 teamsters have signed a charter application to the Brotherhood of Teamsters, the largest number of charter applicants in the history of Topeka trade unionism.

14 MEN FOR EVERY JOB.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 8.—Officials of the Carpenters' union report that since the cantonments have been completed there are 14 men for every available job.

$3 FOR CITY LABORERS.

New York, Dec. 8.—Organized workers are supporting pending legislation which would increase wages of city laborers to $3 a day.